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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

CALIFORNIA LIBRARY OCT 5 1970 ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Volume 52 Berkeley, Calif. October 1970 Number 10

"COASTLINE CALIFORNIA" BY AL WOOL

The Audubon Wildlife Film schedule arrived too late for the September **Gull**. We hope this issue will reach Berkeley Audubon members in time for the film on **Wednesday, September 30,** when we welcome the return of California photographer-naturalist-birder conservationist-rancher—Albert J. Wool of La Honda. His new film, "Coastline California," has some of the finest footage ever taken of the rare sea otter feeding and at play. Focusing on a stretch of California's coastline between San Francisco and Big Sur, Al Wool's film features avocets, godwits, black oystercatchers, sea lions, elephant seals, and many other forms of life found along the rocky shores, in the tidepools, and on the sandy beaches.

We are fortunate to have this outstanding photographer return to Berkeley to open the 20th year of Golden Gate Audubon sponsorship of the Wildlife Films.

"Coastline California" will begin at **8:15 p.m.** in King Junior High School Auditorium-Theatre, Rose St. at Grant, Berkeley. Season tickets for 5 Audubon Wildlife Films are $5 for Audubon members and $6 for non-members; for students under 18 the season tickets are $3. Single admission is $1.50 for adults and $1 for students under 18. All tickets may be purchased at the door on September 30.

The other four films in the series will be: "Hawaii—Paradise of the Pacific" by Walter H. Berlet on **Thursday, November 19;** Acadian Reflections" by Robert E. Fultz on **Monday, January 11;** "Scandinavian Saga" by John Douglas Bulger on **Monday, February 8;** and "Land of the Drowned River" by Charles J. Stine on **Thursday, March 4.** Our Wild life Films Chairman, Mrs. Frances Ellen Fallgatter would appreciate help with publicity and telephoning. (Please phone 655-9582).

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

What a shame that our mountain lion didn't recieve as much consideration from our State Legislature as the common house cat! For the welfare of wild birds and better balanced urban communities, new state law requires that all house cats sold or given away by animal shelters and pounds must be spayed or neutered. But Assemblyman John Dunlap's bill to give greater protection to our mountain lions died in committee and the management and protection of the lion was turned

over completely to the Department of Fish and Game. Lions may now be hunted at any season by buyers of "lion tags", and with the use of dogs. However, a spokesman for Fish and Game assures us that his agency will now excercise strict and careful control over our lion population.

Greater surveillance, participation and protests where necessary in behalf of America's wild animal life are assured by the formation of new Sierra Club committees in many chapters for this express purpose. Your Chairman attended the first meeting of the Bay Chapter group on August 20th at the Mills Tower offices. There was sharp criticism of the present hunting club leases within the Marin Water District and and a majority of those present wished to work toward new State Game Refuge status for some of the district lands. There is a large and troublesome surplus of deer in many areas of Marin County, however, in the absence of natural predators. Who will control them?

Mr. Bruce Keegan, Chairman of this wildlife committee, may be reached by phone at 333-1033 (his San Francisco residence). This group should have constant liaison with the Bay Area Audubon Council.

The reluctance of the Nixon administration to turn "thumbs down" on federal financing of the Supersonic Transport (SST) in the face of nationwide protests, negative recommendations by the President's environmental consultants, and the expressed doubts by both airlines and airport operators baffles us. We were also shocked by Mr. Nixon's recent directive authorizing an increased rate of timber harvest in national forests—with certain precautionary admonitions concerning environmental factors, to be sure. A National Timber Supply Act, which would have urged and sanctioned greatly increased cutting, was soundly defeated by Congress this spring. *Aren't you listening, Mr. President?* Many experts have testified that the slow-down in U.S. housing is not due to any shortage of lumber in yards or in currently authorized logging tracts.

The mercury-water-pollution crisis across the nation reveals only sporadic federal enforcement against offending firms and corporations according to the Conservation News of the National Wildlife Feredation. **In many cases the U.S. Attorney General declined to act.**

Another feature in the August 1st issue of this "News", titled "To Cool the Air About Hot Water," presents massive evidence that nuclear plants, both existing and future, can reduce their water discharges to acceptable, safe levels—if they will invest the proper amount of planning and expenditures in cooling towers—to save the sea!

And to conclude with matters closer to home:—the unique faunal-floral "island" of Huckleberry Trail near Roundtop in the Oakland Hills may be acquired by the Eastbay Regional Park District. And look for some imaginative PG&E proposals to placate birders and sportsmen where the company wants to erect new power lines across bayshores and marshes. Last, but not least, shouldn't we all inquire where our South Bay Wildlife Refuge now sits on official shelves?—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman.*

FIELD TRIPS FOR OCTOBER

Saturday, October 3—Monterey boat trip (reservations closed in Sept.)

Saturday, October 3 —A pleasant, easy walk in Golden Gate Park—a good trip for beginners. Meet at the Chain of Lakes, 43rd and Fulton at **9 a.m.** Lunch optional. Leader, Roberta Long.

Saturday-Sunday, October 10-11—An overnight trip to Point Reyes Peninsula. We'll bird on Jepson Trail, Drake's Estuary, Drake's Beach and other spots. Make overnight reservations with Mr. Brady, Inverness Motel, Inverness, CA, (mention Audubon). Dinner Saturday night will be at Jerry's Farmhouse in Olema ($3.50 up). Notify Pat Triggs, 2o38-33rd Ave., San Francisco 94116, 664-8502, by October 7 if you plan to attend dinner. Provide your own breakfast; there are several lunch counters in the town of Pt. Reyes. Meeting place will be the same each day—Inverness store at **9 a.m.** To get to Inverness from Golden Gate Bridge, travel North past San Rafael, take Lucas Valley exit. Drive through Nicasio and follow signs to Pt. Reyes. Drive through the town, cross the bridge and immediately turn right onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Proceed to Inverness store. Allow 1½ hours driving time. Bring lunch for both days. Leader, Erline Hevel, 661-4251..

Wednesday, October 14—U.C. Botanical Garden, Berkeley for birds and flowers. Take North Canyon Road behind U.C. Stadium and drive up the hill to the Garden. Meet at **9 a.m.** in the parking lot. Bring lunch. Leaders, Jane Dang, 848-0253, and Bertha Underhill, 848-0131.

Saturday, October 17—Bear Valley. There will be a long and a short trip. The long trip will be from Pt. Reyes Headquarters to the ocean (8 miles round trip). Leader, Glen Ellwood, 681-0651. The short trippers will take the Woodpecker Trail, followed by a short walk along the main trail. Meet at the Point Reyes National Seashore Headquarters at Olema at **9 a.m.** Bring lunch and walking shoes. There are many ways to go to Olema. Check the map. It's on Highway 1.

Sunday, October 25—Come to Sunol to see the Golden Eagles. Be prepared to walk in sturdy shoes. Take US 50 (Interstate 580) toward the East. Just past the big Dublin intersection, make a right turn onto Interstate 680. Drive about 8 miles ,exit at Highway 84, immediately turn left and continue several miles to the sign that points to Sunol Regional Park. Turn left for about one mile. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the Park Headquarters (a small brown cottage). Bring lunch. Leader, Tom Carson, 581-2655.

Saturday, October 31—Palo Alto Salt Marsh—a good place for shorebirds and rails. Take Bayshore Freeway 101 South. Exit at Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto. Drive over the overpass and head for the Palo Alto Yacht Harbor. Meet at the duck pond at **9 a.m.** Bring lunch. Leader, Ted Chandik.

November dates to save: **Saturday, November 7** for Bodega Bay. Leader, Aileen Pierson. Tentatively hold **Saturday and Sunday, November 14-15,** for a weekend trip to Willows and Gridley. Details in November *Gull.*

—PATRICIA TRIGGS, *Field Trips Chairman*

SPECIAL TRIP FOR YOUNG ADULTS—George Peyton, our new Vice President, has scheduled a special field trip for young adults (age 18 to 30). This will be a general ecology trip on the Bear Valley Trail in Pt. Reyes National Seashore Meet on Saturday, October 24, at **9 a.m.** in the main parking lot of the National Seashore Headquarters at Olema. Bring binoculars, if possible, a knapsack lunch, and walking shoes for an all-day hike to the ocean and back (8 miles round trip).

HELP WANTED

Golden Gate Audubon Society needs a Program Chairman to make phone calls to invite speakers for our monthly meetings from November to June. President Josh Barkin would like to hear from any member who can volunteer a few hours to handle this task. Please phone him at the Tilden Park Nature Area—524-2495.

ADVENTURE CLUB FILMS—OCTOBER 16

"From Alaska to the Virgin Islands" is the theme of a film program to be presented by Othel Goff on **Friday, October 16, at 8 p.m.** in the Oakland Museum Theater for the Adventure Club of Oakland, sponsored by the Oakland Museum Association. His three 15-minuute films will include Mt. McKinley National Park, Glacier Peak area of North Cascades National Park, and Virgin Islands National Park with its water birds and undersea life. The program will conclude with a short film entitled "Warning, Warning" on Bay Area pollution problems.

AUGUST 29th BOAT TRIP OFF MONTEREY

Because of the unusually calm Pacific, more than 40 Audubon members and guests, including two naturalists from Ontario and England, enjoyed excellent conditions for studying sea birds and mammals under the expert leadership of Alan Baldridge and Ted Chandik. Some of the bird highlights were several Black-footed Albatross, a number of Sooty, Pink-footed and New Zealand Shearwaters (the latter shearwaters quite early), and two Skuas, one of which alighted on the water just off the bow of the boat. Mammal highlights were Sea Lions, a raft of 60 Sea Otters (which are being blamed for ruining the abalone industry that serves only the affluent), a beautiful view of an Alaskan Fur Seal, an Elephant Seal and delightful views of the Dall Porpoise and and the White-sided Dolphins, whose leaps out of the water were breathtaking. *What is the future of our sea life?*—MRS. VALERIA G. Da COSTA

OBSERVATIONS

Aug. 8—Solitary Sandpiper and Hermit Warbler, Rodeo Lagoon—Val & Bob Da Costa.

Aug. 15—Albino hummingbird with black border on tail, El Sobrante garden of Mr. & Mrs. Weiss.

Aug. 17—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Rodeo Lagoon—Bill Pursell.

Aug. 18—Red-necked Grebe, Bodega Bay—Bill Pursell.

Aug. 20—Hermit Warbler near Muir Woods. Thousands of shearwaters in flight and on the ocean near Duxbury Reef, Bolinas Mesa.

Aug.23—Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Florence Richardson's garden, San Mateo.

Aug. 31—Albino Red-tailed Hawk at Rodeo Lagoon again—Bill Pursell. It was first reported last year on Sept. 10.

Sept.1—Four Western Tanagers at North Lake, Golden Gate Park, on red-flowering eucalyptus.

We have received many reports of Hooded Orioles this year. In addition to the observations previously reported in *The Gull*, Dick & Claire Johnson saw a male Hooded Oriole on a telephone wire on El Centro Ave near Park Blvd. in Oakland on June 7, and they reported one in Belmont in early August (where they have nested for two years). Also in early August Mr. and Mrs. William Murphy had Hooded Orioles at their hummingbird feeder in Piedmont. Alice Mericourt observed a family of Hooded Orioles at her hummingbird feeder and red-flowering eucalyptus in El Cerrito during August (Aug. 28th was the last day).

Sacramento Audubon Society's *The Observer* reports a male *Indigo* Bunting feeding with 15 Lazuli Buntings on August 14 in the Yolo By-Pass (Tim Manolis and Steve Speich.

An interesting Barn Swallow nest was observed by Marie Calvert and Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Calvert of Professional Press (*The Gull* printer). In early July they watched a pair of Barn Swallows coming to an active nest on a ferry boat that made 50-minute trips from Powell River to Comox, British Columbia. The parent swallows accompanied the ferry as it crossed the Strait of Georgia (20 miles).

From our pelagic member, W. Patrick Dunbar, on board the U.S.N.S. Longview in the Pacific on August 10: "This morning for the second time there was a Red-tailed Tropicbird aboard. Both times I was able to take close-up movies. These birds along with others have legs so weak they seem unable to move about the deck and, as a result, are unable to get into a position to fly. There have been four Bulwer's Petrels aboard—took movies of one of them. . . In June both species of Albatross were seen daily. This time, we've been out 18 days and I've yet to see one. They must all be farther north."

FARALLON SPRING MIGRATION REPORT BY PRBO

The Point Reyes Bird Observatory *Newsletter,* August, published a brief summary of the spring migration season on Southeast Farallon: . . .

"*Warblers.* Wilson's Warbler featured most strongly, but the total of 254 was about 20 per cent lower than in 1969. A sprinkling of the other common west coast migrants in mid-May was followed by the more exotic species at the end of the month and the beginning of June. Twenty-one species in all were represented including Tennessee, Parula Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, and Ovenbird. A Hooded Warbler on June 6 was only the third record for the island.

"**Fringillids.** Following the first state record in July 1969 and another in September, Cassin's Sparrow showed up again this year, this time on June 2. A Brewer's Sparrow was seen on May 22, and a Clay-colored on June 7. June 6 brought two Indigo Buntings and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. A Sage Sparrow on April 17 was the first island record.

"**Miscellaneous.** Two Black Swifts were seen on June 9 - the first record for the island. Baltimore Orioles were reported on June 4 and 7. An adult male Bobolink was seen on May 26. There was a heavy movement of Bonaparte's Gulls past the island in mid-April."

KGO-TV has been televising a series of editorials at 7:30 p.m. on behalf of complete federal protection for the wildlife of the Farallons. The editorial urges viewers to write to their Congressmen about saving this valuable habitat for birds and mammals.

SEA OTTERS VS. COMMERCIAL ABALONE EXPLOITERS

"Today sportsmen and conservation groups are finding that they have far more common ground than they recognized in the past, and that time is running out for our wild resources. Sportsman groups have been active in campaigns to improve habitats for game species, to fight against unwise use of environmental poisons such as DDT, and to phase out commercial harvest of a game species that is threatened by over-exploitation by commercial interests. There are so many threats to wildlife in America today from the impact of 'technological man' who has been exploiting the environment for the shortsighted gain without regard to the long term prospects. . .

"In the past, farsighted citizens and sportsman's groups ended uncontrolled market hunting for deer, ducks and Pismo Clams. It's time to take a long hard look at the failure of present abalone harvesting practices to maintain a sustained breeding population of abalone both inside and outside of the range of the sea otter. We can't blame the otter for the decline of the abalone resource along the coast of San Diego, Laguna Beach, Palos Verdes, Malibu, Santa Barbara, Catalina and the Channel Islands. He doesn't live there. It is clear to all thinking sportsmen that the abalone is disappearing from the combined impact of overharvest and the other activities of 'Technological man'. Plants and animals alike are delicately balanced in a complex web of life. It would be a sad mistake to sacrifice a resource such as the sea otter in a vain attempt to save another resource, the abalone."—James A. Mattison, Jr., M.D. in *The Otter Raft* published by Friends of the Sea Otter, Big Sur, CA 93920.

WATCH FOR COLOR-TAGGED GULLS

If you see any gulls wearing colored plastic tags, please report your observations to Dr. Howard L. Cogswell, Dept. of Biological Science, California State College, Hayward, CA 94542. The report should include date and place of observation, name and address of observer, and information about the tag's color, numerals, letters or symbols. If you do not know the species of gull observed, describe its plumage and bill and feet colors. Several study projects are under way in the western U.S. on gull movements.

Dr. Cogswell's project includes the whole Bay Region and is supported by a grant from the U.S. Public Health Service in relation to birds and solid waste disposal. Most of the birds are marked and released close to one of the land-fill sites where garbage atracts them. It is already evident that many of the gulls do not stay at any one location, however, so the marked ones should be looked for anywhere. Reports of all such tagged birds are valuable data for the better understanding of the seasons and extent of these movements, and if there are observations from distant places it will add to knowledge of the migrations of gulls.

AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Clerin Zumwalt, Ranch Naturalist, reports the same number of nesting birds at the Ranch this season as last and they seem to stay a little longer this year Several egret nestlings were hatched in July.

More people visited the Ranch this year—over 30,000 for the 1970 season. At least half the visitors were children and a large number were school children by appointment. The Ranch was open on Tuesdays for the first time to accommodate the increased number of school requests. The Volunteer Council for Audubon Ranch sponsored by the Junior League of San Francisco enabled the Ranch to handle the increased number of children. A new program for school children is being initiated this fall. Schools may visit the Ranch by appointment *between October 5 and November 25.* Emphasis will be on shore and water birds.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts of remembrance were made to *Audubon Canyon Ranch;*

In Memory of	*Gift of:*
Clare McA. Pierson	Aileen Pierson
George DeSoto	Claire & Fred Hellman
Mrs. Marie Rubino	Dr. & Mrs. Albert Boles
Dr. Walker Layne	Dr. & Mrs. Albert Boles

—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*

DISCARDED FILMS KILL WILDLIFE

The *Oakland Tribune* published a statement by Vern Hamre, Regional Forester for the U.S. Forest Service, that self-developing film kills fish and wildlife when discarded in wild areas. He reported that such scraps of film contaminate streams and lakes and poison many animals such as moose, elk and deer that like to eat it. He said that an estimated **400** hoofed animals died in national forests, national parks and other recreational areas last year as a result of eating film residue.

On our field trips and other hikes we should pick up the litterbugs' toxic film and carry it home for disposal. Another environmental hazard is discarded fishing line and leader, which can entangle the feet of shorebirds and waterfowl.
shorebirds and waterfow.

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Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward THE GULL. Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership, Local & National $10 per yer, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately $2 per year.

High school & college student membership $6 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.